

## Virginia Naturally Annual Report for Calendar Year 2006

**Business Plan Actions:** To increase the number of new partner organizations; communicate with partners; host an annual EE conference for non-formal, community-based educators; develop regional networks; increase stewardship by 10%; and promote professional development opportunities, grant funding and EE resources.

### Reporting period: Jan. 1- Dec. 31, 2006

- **110** organizations signed up as **new partners** during this calendar year.
- **Twelve** electronic newsletters sent out to partner base of over 1,000.
- Website statistics report **57,720** website "hits" with **9,593** downloads.
- New online searchable **partner database** being updated and will launch in early 2007.
- Training provided to 847 community educators at 24 training workshops; coordination, public information and resources provided to 2,384 people at 14 outreach events.
- 143 educators attended *Racing to Improve the Environment 2006 Virginia EE conference and 2<sup>nd</sup> partner meeting* at W.E. Skelton 4-H Education Conference Center at Smith Mountain Lake. Top features of the conference include: networking, diversity of workshop sessions, conference location, trying for zero waste and resources. Suggested future topics: see more on citizenship and conservation, global warming, alternative energy sources.
- In 2007, the Virginia Office of Environmental Education (VOEE) and the Virginia Resource Use Education Council (VRUEC) will work with the North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE) to provide topics at annual conference "Explore New Horizons for Environmental Education" to be held November 14-17, 2007 in Virginia Beach, VA. [www.naaee.org/conference/2007](http://www.naaee.org/conference/2007)
- **Regional EE Networks (teams)**  
**Eight** regional groups/teams/alliances for environmental organizations are underway. Hampton Roads is functioning as HRAEE with 175 organizations; Greater Richmond is functioning as GREEN with 45 organizations; Southwest VA is known as SWEET with 16 organizations; and Alleghany Highlands Environmental Alliance has 16 organizations. The West Central-Roanoke region (18 organizations) has met twice; Northern VA, Southside, VA and South Central VA have each met once.
- Fifteen (15) VaNaturally partner organizations received **state, national and local awards** such as Environmental Excellence, Keep Virginia Beautiful Awards, Keep America Beautiful and Virginia Naturally.
- Two rounds of Virginia **Classroom Grants** were awarded to **97** schools **\$67,850** grant funds. First round of MWEE Minigrants for Partner were awarded to **9** community organizations which received **\$19,200**.
- **25** schools earned recognition as a Virginia Naturally School for their efforts during the 2005-2006 school year.
- 3,000 **Love-A-Tree** kits developed and are being distributed. The 2006 theme was: *Virginia's Natural Resources: Then and Now...1607-2007*.
- **Stewardship VA** reported **6,091** volunteers received certificates for **171** projects registered during Spring Campaign and **158** volunteers received certificates for **4,550** projects registered during the Fall Campaign.